

REMARKS

Claims 61 to 72 are in the application, with Claims 61, 64, 67, and 70 to 72 being independent. Claims 61, 64, 67, and 70 have been amended herein, and Claim 72 has been newly added. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 61 to 71 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,609,050 (Li) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,432,904 (Wong), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,745,602 (Morrell). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 61 and 70 to 72 recite, *inter alia*, a second transmission unit adapted to, when the printer runs out of ink, determine whether the user has made a maintenance contract for the printer, and (1) if it is determined that the user has made the maintenance contract for the printer, transmit to a delivery company terminal via the network information for indicating a method of delivering an ink, (2) if it is determined that the user has not made a maintenance contract for the printer, determine whether an ink purchase request is generated, and if the ink purchase request is generated, transmit to the delivery company terminal via the network information for indicating a method of delivering an ink.

Claims 64 and 67 recite, *inter alia*, a second transmission step of, when the printer runs out of ink, determining whether the user has made a maintenance contract for the printer, and (1) if it is determined that the user has made the maintenance contract for the printer, transmitting to a delivery company terminal via the network information for indicating a method of delivering an ink, (2) if it is determined that the user has not made a maintenance contract for the printer, determining whether an ink purchase request is generated, and if the ink purchase request is generated, transmitting to the delivery company terminal via the network information for indicating a method of delivering an ink.

None of Li, Wong, and Morrell, even in the proposed combinations, assuming, *arguendo*, that such could be combined, is seen to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed features.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that there is no suggestion or motivation to combine Li and Wong, which relate to an estimation of car repair cost, with Morrell, which relates to a notification of printer error. In general, since cars are not connected to a network, information regarding car failure is not transmitted via a network to an external server.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from the independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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